Vol. IX. Numb. 44.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On Advices from ſeveral Parts of the Nation of the Great Mobs that attend Dr. Sacheverell *in his Parades. The Dangers that may ariſe from ſuch Proceedings by a Condemn'd Incendiary, hinted at from Inſtances of our own and the* Roman *Hiſtory. Our Sheriffs and Juſtices to blame in not preventing ſuch Tumults according to Her Majeſty's Proclamation. On the Addreſſes of the Faction; and a further Caveat to the City in their Choice of Sheriffs.*

From Wedneſday, June 14, to Saturday, June 17. 1710.

Countrym. WELL, Maſter, what do you think of Dr. *Sacheverell*'s Proceſſions of State thro' the Nation, and of the Thouſands of People that meet him, in this and that Place, if we may believe ſome of our Publick Prints.

Obſ. I don't at all wonder at it, *Roger*, if it be true, tho' I am ſatisfied that in this Caſe as in others the Story loſes nothing by Telling; for 'tis the Intereſt of the Faction ſince they have eſpouſed his Cauſe, that he he ſhould appear Conſiderable, however Contemptible he be in himſelf. Our good Neighbours and Allies, the *Dutch*, have Two very Emphatical Words for an Idol, *viz.* a *Treck Godt*, and an *Aff Godt*, which Graphically deſcribe the Vileneſs and Wickedneſs of its Nature, *viz.* that an Idol is a *God of Dirt*, and a *Thing that takes Men off from the true God*. Thus when the *Iſraelites* and others were given up to Idolatry, *they changed the Glory of the Uncorruptible God into an Image, made like to Corruptible Man, and to Birds, and Fourfooted Beaſts, and Creeping Things*, Rom. 1. 22. Nay, the People of God under the Old Teſtament were ſo far bewitched that they made a Calf in *Horeb*, worſhipped its molten Image, and changed their Glory into the Similitude of an Ox that eat Graſs; and the *Egyptians*, tho' then reckoned the moſt Polite and Learned Nation in the World, became ſtill greater Fools and Slaves, worſhipp'd the very Graſs that the Ox did eat, and adored their own Onions. One would think that Human Nature could not ſink lower, *Roger*, yet the Divine Oracles aſſure us it did; and that from Worſhipping the Meaneſt and moſt Deſpicable Creatures, which how Contemptible ſoever they be in themſelves, bid Defiance to all Human Power to create the like, they came to adore the Works of their own Hands, ſuch as Images of Wood and Stone, the Work of Common Mechanicks; ſo that as Idolatry is the greateſt Sin, 'tis alſo the greateſt Puniſhment in the World, and that which of all others does moſt debaſe Human Nature.

Countrym. But how is all this applicable to Dr. *Sacheverell*, Maſter?

Obſ. 'Tis applicable enough, *Roger*; ſince you yourſelf tell me he is become the Idol of an unthinking Mob. Had not the Poor Man and his Admirers a Defect in their Heads as well as their Hearts neither of them would be guilty of ſuch Extravagant Folly: The *Roman* Hiſtory tells us of a War raiſed againſt the State by their own Slaves, who ſeized the Capitol, and did a great deal of Miſchief before they could be ſuppreſſed; and if we are to expect any thing better from thoſe among us at preſent who have reviv'd the Doctrine of Slavery, let their late and preſent Inſults upon the Queen and Parliament determine: Did not they actually riſe in Rebellion in our Capital, while that Incendiary was upon his Trial, in order to obſtruct the Progreſs of Parliamentary Juſtice? And does not the ſame Hot-headed Prieſt appear now everywhere in the Country at the Head of Inſolent Mobs, rais'd by Art to terrifie the Government. They found the Parliament ſtood to their Point, and were not to be overawed by Rabbles; but now that 'tis prorogued they inſult the Members in their ſeveral Counties; and this inſignificant Tool of a Party Triumphs at the Head of his Mobs over the Proceedings of the Houſe of Commons, the Sentence of the Lords, and the Queen's Approbation of their neceſſary Proceedings againſt that Arch-Incendiary, who was pronounced Guilty of Libelling Her Majeſty's Adminiſtration, and endeavouring to raiſe a Sedition and Rebellion, &c. according to the Impeachment of the Commons. Did not Her Majeſty in Anſwer to the Addreſs of the Houſe expreſs a Juſt Reſentment at thoſe Tumultuous and Violent Proceedings, promiſe to take Immediate Care for ſuppreſſing them, and to loſe no Time in endeavouring to find out the Authors and Abettors, in order to bring them to Puniſhment? Did not her Majeſty iſſue a Proclamation accordingly, wherein they were declared Rebels? Yet you ſee that in Contempt of the Authority of Her Majeſty and Parliament they everywhere promote Treaſonable Addreſſes, wherein they repeat the very Crimes that *Sacheverell* was condemned for, to Her Majeſty's Face; and are now come to that Height of Inſolence as to direct, nay, to command Her Majeſty in the the Choice of Her Miniſtry and Parliaments. Certainly there was never any Government in the World ſo ſucceſsful againſt Enemies abroad, and at the ſame time ſo outrageouſly inſulted by Mobs at Home.

Countrym. But the Faction complain that you wrong them, Maſter. They expreſs the greateſt Reſpect and Loyalty that can be to Her Majeſty, and the utmoſt Zeal for the *Hannover* Succeſſion.

Obſ. I know that very well, *Roger*; I believe *Richard Cromwell* is ſtill alive, and can, if he pleaſes, ſhew us Cart-loads of Addreſſes to himſelf, when the Addreſſers at the ſame Time had reſolved to turn him out. I doubt as little that the Addreſſes of the Faction to the late King *James* are ſtill in being, and yet you know the very Addreſſers had the Main Hand in Dethroning him, ſo that I cann't find a better or nearer Reſemblance of the Faction, *Roger*, than the Diſloyal Wife in *Moliere*'s Comedies, who while ſhe pretended to hug

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and embrace her Husband with the Left Arm, ſtretched out her Right Hand to her Gallant behind his Back, and darted amorous Glances at him over her Husband's Shoulder.

Countrym. But will your Parallel hold, Maſter, or run on all Four, as we expreſs it?

Obſ. Undoubtedly, *Roger*, for 'tis obvious to every body of common Senſe, if Reſiſtance to Princes be in no Caſe Lawful, as the Faction ſay in their Addreſſes, the late King *James* was wronged, and Her Majeſty was one of the Chief of thoſe that injured him; and if the Hereditary Right as they ſay be Divine, and Indefeaſible, Her Majeſty uſurped upon her Father by agreeing to have Her Title inſerted in the Declaration of Rights Excluſive of him. Beſides, this Plea of theirs is much Stronger againſt the *Hannover* Succeſſion, becauſe there are ſo many Princes and Princeſſes of the Blood before them; therefore, *Roger*, I think 'tis very plain that the Faction reſemble *Moliere's* Diſloyal Wife; they pretend to hug Her Majeſty and the Houſe of *Hannover* with the Left Arm, but give the Right Hand and the Amorous Glances to the St. *Germans* Family; for if Non-reſiſtance, Paſſive-obedience, and Divine, Indefeaſible, Hereditary Right be their Principles, their Proteſtations of Loyalty to Her Majeſty, and of Zeal to the *Hannover* Succeſſion, is only a Hypocritical Copy of their Countenance, ſince 'tis not poſſible they can be Sincere in both; and which Way their Biaſs rouls we may ſee by their Practice and Aſſociates, the Papiſts and Nonjurors, who join Iſſue with them, and Applaud their Proceedings, while all thoſe who are true Friends to Her Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, ſtand amazed to ſee the Principles of the Revolution ſo audaciouſly run down, ſtanding Laws addreſſed againſt and a Condemned Incendiary making his Parades thro' the Nation, like another *Jack Cade*, *Jack Straw*, or *Wat Tyler*, with Impuniry, notwithſtanding our Laws, and Her Majeſty's Proclamation, againſt ſuch Tumultuous Proceedings.

Countrym. I confeſs, Maſter, 'tis ſtrange that one condemned for Libelling Her Majeſty's Adminiſtration ſhould be ſuffered thus to inſult Publick Juſtice, and that any Body ſhould be deluded by a Man whoſe Proceedings are more like *Thomas Anello*, than the Conduct of a Miniſter of the Goſpel; I remember that when the late D. of *Monmouth* went to ſee his Friends in the Country, and that ſome of the Unthinking Mob careſſed him in his Father's Life-time. A Meſſenger was quickly diſpatch'd after him. and that he was brought up to Town in Cuſtody, and check'd for his Imprudence; ſo that conſidering, as you juſt now hinted, that ſuch Inconſiderable Fellows as *Cade*, *Tyler*, and *Straw*, made Rebellions in the Nation, 'tis a Wonder to me that *Sacheverell* who occaſion'd a Rebellion already, ſhould be ſuffered to go on in ſuch a manner. We had lately a Falſe Alarm of an Invaſion in *Scotland*, but ſuppoſe the Pretender ſhould in Reality make a Second Attempt, and profeſs himſelf a Proteſtant, and declare for High-Church, which the Court of *Roan* would readily diſpence with, what Miſchief might not this Incendiary do, by getting up to a Reformation Oak, inſiſting upon the Danger of the Church from the preſent Adminiſtration, and preaching up the Unlawfulneſs of Reſiſting the late K. *James*, and Setting aſide the Divine Hereditary Right.

Obſ. Let the Government ſee to that, *Roger*; I remember in the *Roman* Hiſtory that *Eunus*, a Slave in *Sicily*, by pretending to Inſpiration, and a Divine Commiſſion to ſet all Slaves and oppreſſed People at Liberty, rais'd an Army of 60000 Men, which cut out Work for the *Romans*. A Shepherd after him play'd the ſame Mad Prank, and neither of them could be reduced by leſs than a Veterane or Conſular Army. *Spartacus*, a Common Gladiator or Fencing-maſter, with ſome Lewd Rakes like himſelf, broke out of Priſon, rais'd an Army of 60000 Men, defeated a *Roman* Prætor, ſeveral Generals, and all that oppoſed him; nor was he reduced at laſt, till he had ravaged all *Italy*. Now ſuppoſing that ſome Rakiſh Jacobite Officers, aſſiſted by ſome of their *French* Brethren, ſhould join the Thouſands of Mob that attend *Sacheverell* in his Parades, we may eaſily gueſs what Work they might make, and how great a Diverſion they might give, to the Confederate Arms beyond Sea.

Countrym. I think, Maſter, that our Sheriffs and Juſtices of Peace are very much to blame not to ſuppreſs ſuch Tumults and Riots. An Honeſt Juſtice of the Peace near *Epſom* quickly curbed the Mob that began to flock about the Incendiary in thoſe Parts, and to receive his unhallowed Benedictions. In the mean time this may ſerve to convince our Citizens how much it concerns them to take Care in the approaching Choice of Sheriffs. They cannot be too Zealous in ſtanding up for Men of Britiſh Principles at ſuch a Juncture as this, when the Kingdom is inſulted by Mobs, and our Laws, Lives, Liberties and Religion, ſtruck at by Rebellious and Treaſonable Addreſſes. The Example of the City is of great Importance to the Nation at ſuch a Critical Time, as well as to their own Security and Peace, which I hope they will conſider, and I pray God to direct them.

Advertiſements.

To all Ingenious Queriſts.

IN Dunton's Three laſt Oracles were inſerted, The Ignorant Poſt: Or, An Eſſay, Marry we know nothing. The Miſer's Poſt: Or, A Comical Relation of the Bread and Cheeſe Club at Covent-Garden. The Rhiming Poſt: Or, A Poem on any Subject deſir'd. Apollo's Poſt: Or, The Parliament of Stars, being a Table of the preſent Times. The Wedding Poſt: Or, A Conjugal Lottery, being a Project to help Old Maids to obliging Husbands, and poor Bachelors to rich Wives. The Dipping Poſt: Or, A Lucubration on Tunbridge-Wells, with Advice to the Waterdrinkers. And in next Tueſday's Oracle will be inſerted, The Lame Poſt: Or, The Life and Death of on Old Woman, who gives the Hiſtory of 130 Years from her own Memory, as is aſſeſted by Credible Witneſſes. The Athenian Poſt: Or, A Pacquet of Thoughts wholly New. The Sick Poſt: Or, Diverting Phyſick for every Diſeaſe incident to the Soul and Body, (a Project to render Doctors and Apothecaries uſeleſs.) The White Sheet: Or, The Penance Poſt, being the Publick Confeſſion of a Fornicator, who ſtood in a White Sheet in Cornhill-Church about 60 Years ago, which laſt Poſt compleats the Firſt Volume of Dunton's Oracle, or 3000 Poſts. To which will be added, A General Title, Preface, and Index, and will be Sold for 2 s. 6 d. ſtiteht up in Blue Paper to keep it clean till Six Volumes are publiſh'd, whieh (containing juſt 90 Sheets) will be a fit Size for Binding.

Note, The Caſuiſtican Poſt: Or, Athenian Mercury, (reſolving all Nice and Curious Queſtions,) will be added to every one of Dunton's Poſts, till the 3000 are publiſh'd.

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